

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network, comprising the steps:

3 upon receiving an incoming emergency message
4 from an authorized entity at a node serving a subscriber,
5 invoking a multimedia session engine to launch a call
6 treatment application for said subscriber;

7 based on at least a portion of parametric
8 information relating to said incoming emergency message,
9 querying an emergency notification profile associated
10 with said subscriber;

11 responsive to said step of querying,
12 determining by said call treatment application a
13 particular emergency alert scheme to be provided with
14 respect to said incoming emergency message; and

15 actuating a subscriber-selectable device for
16 effectuating said particular emergency alert scheme.

1 2. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said subscriber-selectable device comprises at
4 least a portion of a multimedia interface operable with
5 said subscriber's terminal.

1 3. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 further comprising the steps:

4 determining whether said particular emergency
5 alert scheme is unavailable for delivery with respect to
6 said incoming emergency message; and

7 if so, selecting an alternative emergency alert
8 scheme to notify said incoming emergency message.

1 4. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 further comprising the steps:

4 determining whether an override option is
5 effective against said particular emergency alert scheme
6 with respect to said incoming emergency message; and

7 if so, notifying said incoming emergency
8 message in accordance with said override option.

1 5. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes
4 an audio transmission mode.

1 6. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes
4 a video transmission mode.

1 7. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes
4 an email transmission mode.

1 8. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes
4 a facsimile transmission mode.

1 9. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes
4 a paging mode.

1 10. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme includes
4 a graphics transmission mode.

1 11. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme is based
4 on emergency type information associated with said
5 incoming emergency message.

1 12. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme is based
4 on emergency severity information associated with said
5 incoming emergency message.

1 13. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme is based
4 on said incoming emergency message's originating area.

1 14. The emergency notification method for use in
2 a multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 1,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme is based
4 on said authorized entity's identification.

1 15. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 14,
3 wherein said authorized entity comprises an authorized
4 individual.

1 16. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 14,
3 wherein said authorized entity comprises an authorized
4 governmental agency.

1 17. The emergency notification method for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 14,
3 wherein said authorized entity comprises an authorized
4 commercial entity.

1 18. A emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network, comprising:

3 means for invoking a multimedia session engine
4 to launch a call treatment application for a subscriber
5 with respect to an incoming emergency message initiated
6 by a message originator;

7 database means operable to store an emergency
8 notification profile associated with said subscriber;

9 service logic means associated with said call
10 treatment application for determining a particular
11 emergency alert scheme to be provided with respect to
12 said incoming emergency message by interacting with said
13 database means; and

14 means for actuating a subscriber-selectable
15 device for effectuating said particular emergency alert
16 scheme.

1 19. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,
3 wherein said subscriber-selectable device comprises at
4 least a portion of a multimedia interface operable with
5 said subscriber's terminal.

1 20. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,
3 wherein said particular emergency alert scheme comprises
4 providing at least one of an audio transmission, a video
5 transmission, a graphics transmission, a paging
6 transmission, and an email transmission.

1 21. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,
3 further comprising means to select an alternative
4 emergency alert scheme when said particular emergency
5 alert scheme is unavailable.

1 22. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's home computer for notifying
5 said incoming emergency message.

1 23. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's office computer for
5 notifying said incoming emergency message.

1 24. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's pager for notifying said
5 incoming emergency message.

1 25. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's mobile phone for notifying
5 said incoming emergency message.

1 26. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's office phone for notifying
5 said incoming emergency message.

1 27. The emergency notification system for use in
2 a multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's home phone for notifying
5 said incoming emergency message.

1 28. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's personal digital assistant
5 (PDA) for notifying said incoming emergency message.

1 29. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's television (TV) set for
5 notifying said incoming emergency message.

1 30. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's laptop computer for
5 notifying said incoming emergency message.

1 31. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 21,
3 wherein said alternative emergency alert scheme comprises
4 activating said subscriber's palmtop computer for
5 notifying said incoming emergency message.

1 32. The emergency notification system for use in
2 a multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,
3 wherein said message originator includes an authorized
4 individual.

1 33. The emergency notification system for use in a
2 multimedia-capable network as set forth in claim 18,
3 wherein said message originator includes an authorized
4 entity.

1 34. A computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network, said computer-accessible medium
4 carrying a sequence of instructions which, when executed
5 by at least one processing entity associated with said
6 multimedia-capable next-generation network, causes the
7 following steps to be performed:

8 upon receiving an incoming emergency message
9 from an authorized entity at a node serving a subscriber,
10 invoking a multimedia session engine to launch a call
11 treatment application for said subscriber;

12 based on at least a portion of parametric
13 information relating to said incoming emergency message,
14 querying an emergency notification profile associated
15 with said subscriber;

16 responsive to said step of querying,
17 determining by said call treatment application a
18 particular emergency alert scheme to be provided with
19 respect to said incoming emergency message; and

20 actuating a subscriber-selectable device for
21 effectuating said particular emergency alert scheme.

1 35. The computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network as set forth in claim 34, wherein said
4 subscriber-selectable device comprises at least a portion
5 of a multimedia interface operable with said subscriber's
6 terminal.

1 36. The computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network as set forth in claim 34, wherein said
4 particular emergency alert scheme comprises providing at
5 least one of an audio transmission, a video transmission,
6 a graphics transmission, a paging transmission, and an
7 email transmission.

1 37. The computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network as set forth in claim 34, further
4 comprising another sequence of instructions for selecting
5 an alternative emergency alert scheme when said
6 particular emergency alert scheme is unavailable.

1 38. The computer-accessible medium operable with a
2 network element disposed in a multimedia-capable next-
3 generation network as set forth in claim 37, wherein said
4 alternative emergency alert scheme comprises activating
5 at least one of the following devices for notifying said
6 incoming emergency message based on said emergency
7 notification profile associated with said subscriber: a
8 home computer, an office computer, a pager, a mobile
9 phone, a home phone, an office phone, a personal digital
10 assistant (PDA), a television (TV) set, a laptop computer
11 and a palmtop device.